

## REMARKS

Claims 1-42 were pending in this application. Of these claims, claims 32-42 have been indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record, but objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1-31 were finally rejected. Of these claims, claims 1, 6, 12, 17, 21, 24, 26, 27, and 29-31 have been canceled. Claims 32-42 have been amended to independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims as suggested by the Examiner. Further, the remainder of the claims of the application have been amended as appropriate to be dependent upon one of newly amended independent claims 32-42. Claims 2-5, 7-11, 13-16, 18-20, 22, 23, 25, 28, and 32-42 remain pending in this application and are at issue herein.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner's time and courtesy extended to their representative, Ms. Grace Law, on June 3, 2003 in a telephonic interview to discuss the instant application.

The Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for indication of the allowability of claims 32-42 over the prior art of record. However, the Examiner has objected to these claims as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has also indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants respectfully submit that they have adopted the Examiner's suggestion and have amended each of claims 32-42 to independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 32-42 now stand allowed. Reconsideration of this ground of objection and indication of the allowability of claims 32-42 at an early date are respectfully solicited.

Furthermore, the Applicants have amended the claims not cancelled by the above amendment to be dependent upon one of claims 32-42, as appropriate. Therefore, the Applicants also respectfully submit that the remainder of the claims of this application also stand in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the remainder of these claims in view of the foregoing amendments and indication of the allowability thereof at an early date are therefore respectfully solicited.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, 16-18, and 20-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,044,081). The Applicants respectfully submit that this ground of rejection is moot with regard to claims 1, 6, 12, 17, 21, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30, and 31 in view of the cancellation thereof as indicated hereinabove. Further, the Applicants respectfully submit that this ground of rejection is also moot with

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regard to claims 3-5, 7, 9-11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 23, 25, and 28 in view of the foregoing amendments thereto to change the dependency of these claims, ultimately, to one of allowed claims 32-42, as appropriate. Reconsideration of these claims and indication of the allowability thereof at an early date in view of the foregoing amendments thereto are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 2, 8, 15, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell in view of Dombrosky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,881,247). The Applicants respectfully submit that this ground of rejection is moot in view of the amendment to claims 2, 8, 15, and 19 above changing the dependency of these claims to one of allowed claims 32-35. Reconsideration of this ground of rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and indication of the allowability of claims 2, 8, 15, and 19 at an early date are respectfully solicited.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his thorough consideration of the prior amendment to claim 7 to correct a problem concerning 35 U.S.C. § 112, and the Examiner's indication of withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

In view of the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that all claims remaining pending in this application stand in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application and indication of the allowability of all claims remaining pending therein at an early date are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic conversation will aid in the resolution of any issues not resolved herein, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey J. Makeever, Reg. No. 37390  
JEYDIE, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.  
6815 Weaver Road, Suite 300  
Rockford, Illinois 61114-8018  
(815) 963-7661 (telephone)  
(815) 963-7664 (facsimile)

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